

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method for processing contract data associated with services to be provided via a network in an infrastructure, in which a plurality of binding contracts exists between a service provider and a service requestor for services having a respective number of service specifications, the method comprising:

creating said contract data comprising contract selection parameters for selecting at least one service contract out of said plurality of contracts;

including said contract data into a request for said service;

issuing said request for said service; and

receiving the service according to said selection, wherein

said contract data is processed via software interfaces adapted to comprise said contract data, said interfaces comprising respective definitions of the transport protocol in use, of the messaging protocol in use and on an associated port type in use,

said contract selection parameters are transported in a SOAP message conforming to the SOAP standard,

multiple contract selection parameters are combined in a single service request, and

said contract selection parameters comprise meta-data identifying a particular contract.

Claims 15-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A service requester computer server system for processing contract data associated with services to be provided via a network in an infrastructure in which a plurality of binding contracts exists between a service provider and a service requestor for services having a respective number of service specifications, the system comprising:

means for creating said contract data comprising contract selection parameters for selecting at least one service contract out of said plurality of contracts;

means for including said contract data into a request for said service;

means for issuing said request for said service via network; and

means for receiving the service according to said selection, wherein

said contract data is processed via software interfaces adapted to comprise said contract data, said interfaces comprising respective definitions of the transport protocol in use, of the messaging protocol in use and on an associated port type in use,

said contract selection parameters are transported in a SOAP message conforming to the SOAP standard,

multiple contract selection parameters are combined in a single service request, and

said contract selection parameters comprise meta-data identifying a particular contract.

Claims 22-27 (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer program product for processing contract data associated with services to be provided via a network in an infrastructure in which a plurality of binding contracts exists between a service provider and a service requestor for services having a respective number of service specifications, the computer program product comprising:~~

~~a computer usable medium having computer readable instructions useable program code~~
embodied therein for processing contract data associated with services to be provided via a
network in an infrastructure in which a plurality of binding contracts exists between a service
provider and a service requestor for services having a respective number of service
specifications, the computer readable instructions, when executed on a computer system, causing
the computer system to perform the operations ~~computer useable program code~~ comprising:

~~computer usable program code configured to create~~ creating said contract data
comprising contract selection parameters for selecting at least one service contract out of said
plurality of contracts;

~~computer usable program code configured to include~~ including said contract data into a
request for said service;

~~computer usable program code configured to issue~~ issuing said request for said service;
and

~~computer usable program code configured to receive~~ receiving the service according to
said selection, wherein

said contract data is processed via software interfaces adapted to comprise said contract
data, said interfaces comprising respective definitions of the transport protocol in use, of the
messaging protocol in use and on an associated port type in use,

said contract selection parameters are transported in a SOAP message conforming to the
SOAP standard,

multiple contract selection parameters are combined in a single service request, and
said contract selection parameters comprise meta-data identifying a particular contract.

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Claims 29-34 (Cancelled)